



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: Juneteenth is the oldest recognized celebration and a historic milestone observing the freedom of African Americans from enslavement in the United States following the conclusion of the Civil War; and

Whereas: On June 19, 1865 — nearly nine decades after our nation’s founding, and more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation — the last enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas, finally received word that they were free from bondage; and

Whereas: The celebration of Juneteenth honors the millions of Africans who did not survive the brutal voyage to the Americas and the millions more who were stripped of their humanity and forced into slavery over a period of more than 200 years in the U.S.; and

Whereas: The impact of those bonds and legacies of enslavement on Black Americans continues in our social, political and economic fabric today, creating many ongoing barriers; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue honors Black members of our community who contribute to the spirit, culture and vibrancy of our region, and recognizes the many people who have worked to raise awareness for the history of African Americans as an important part of our national history.

Whereas: Bellevue is committed to cultivating awareness through the city’s second annual Celebration of Juneteenth at City Hall on June 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **June 19, 2023, as**

JUNETEENTH

in Bellevue, Washington, recognizing its historical importance and calling on our community to join us in embracing a commitment to continued reflection and action to advance equity, inclusion and justice.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue